Condition of Mandirs in Jaisinghpur of H.P.

1500. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the ancient Janakinath Mandir, Sitaram Mandir and other such Mandirs in Tehsil Jaisinghpur of Himachal Pradesh are in a very deplorable condition; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken/propose to take to save these very old Mandirs from further deterioration?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Only the Ashapuri temple, Ashapuri in Tehsil Jaisinghpur, Distt. Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, is a centrally protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India which has maintained it in a good condition. The Janakinath Mandir, Sitaram Mandir and other Mandirs in the said Tehsil are not under the central protection.

Development of tourism in Uttar Pradesh

†1501. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan for promotion and development of tourism sector in various States of the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the targets fixed for development of tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Action Plans for States are not formulated by the Department of Tourism. However, tourism projects are sanctioned based on field visits and by consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. During the current year the following projects have been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Sl.No.	Name of the projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
i.	Ramayana Mela at Chitrakoot	2.50
ii.	Construction of Interpretation centre/Shopping centre, Fatehpur Sikri	495.80
iii.	Ganga Festival at Varanasi	2.50
iv.	Development and beautification of Ram-ki-Paidi in Ayodhya	98.18

(c) No specific targets have been fixed. However, the aim of the Government is to develop at least one destination in every State as a hub of tourism, culture clean civic life and healthy environment during the 10th Plan.

Development of Pilgrim Tourism

1502. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is inching its way to being a prefered tourist destination for the sophisticated traveller;

(b) if so,whether this year, India ranked ninth in UK-based magazine survey;

(c) whether Government have given a major thrust to the development of pilgrim tourism in the country and the decision was taken at the Sourthern Tourism Minister's Conference held in Hyderabad in August-September, 2003; and

(d) what other projects are being considered to make tourists spots in the country fit for foreign tourists also?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Readers Award of Condenast Traveller - a leading International Travel Journal has selected India as one of the ten preferred destinations of the world.